

NECAP Science Update: October-November 2006

The state science assessment is now called NECAP Science.

The pilot for this assessment will be administered from May 14-25, 2007, for all schools in Vermont at 4th, 8th, and 11th grades.



The pilot will consist of two one-hour sessions—one session being a combination of multiple-choice and constructed response questions based on four areas of science content: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Science and Inquiry—and the other session to be a one-hour Inquiry Task consisting of extended response items to assess Inquiry.

The Inquiry Task (Extended Response) session for 4th graders will always be a performance task, where students will complete an inquiry investigation, gather data and analyze that data.

The Inquiry Task (Extended Response) session for 11th graders will always be a data-analysis investigation, where students will receive a set of real-life data and answer questions about how further investigation might proceed. This may include graphing, interpretation of graphs, extrapolation of data, identifying next questions, analyzing flawed data, drawing conclusions and justifying the nature of future investigations.

The Inquiry Task (Extended Response) session for 8th graders will alternate the formats described above—some years having a performance task and other years a data-analysis investigation.

The full administration of the NECAP Science assessment will be in May of 2008 and consist of THREE sessions—TWO one-hour sessions of multiple choice and constructed response questions on science content and ONE one-hour Inquiry Task as described above.

No student or school data will be available from the May 2007 pilot assessment.

After the May 2008 administration, 25% of the items will be released with answers and samples of student work for professional development purposes; and schools will receive school and student data that may be used to inform their science program development.